

CLAIMS

[1] An electronic device connected via a network to at least another electronic device which can execute an application, comprising:

5 an application recognizing section for recognizing an application held by the other electronic device;

an application unexecutability detecting section for detecting whether or not the application recognized by the application recognizing section is unexecutable in the other 10 electronic device;

an application execution determining section for determining whether or not a substitute application which can substitute for an application which the application unexecutability detecting section has determined that is 15 unexecutable, is to be executed;

a substitute application holding determining section for determining whether or not the substitute application which can substitute for the application determined to be unexecutable is held in the electronic device; and

20 an application executing section for executing the substitute application.

[2] The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein the application execution determining section includes 25 an application startup request detecting section for detecting

a startup request with respect to the application which the application unexecutability detecting section has detected that is unexecutable, and

the application execution determining section, when a 5 startup request is detected with respect to the application which the application unexecutability detecting section has determined that is unexecutable, determines that the substitute application is to be executed.

10 [3] The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein the substitute application holding determining section includes an application identity determining section for determining whether or not an identical function application having a function identical to the application held by the other electronic 15 device recognized by the application recognizing section is held by the electronic device, and creating an identity table in which the application held by the other electronic device is associated with the identical function application held in the electronic device,

20 the identical function application is a substitute application, and

the substitute application holding determining section determines whether or not the substitute application is held in the electronic device, based on the identity table created by the 25 application identity determining section.

[4] The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein
the substitute application holding determining section
includes a relevant application determining section for creating
5 a relevance table in which a relevant function application having
a function relevant to the application held by the other electronic
device recognized by the application recognizing section, is
associated with the application held by the other electronic
device,

10 the relevant function application is a substitute
application, and

the substitute application holding determining section
determines whether or not the substitute application is held in
the electronic device, based on the relevance table created by
15 the relevant application determining section.

[5] The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein
the application execution determining section includes
an application executed state obtaining section for obtaining an
20 executed state of an application executed in the other electronic
device as application executed state information,

the application execution determining section
determines that the substitute application is to be executed, when
the application executed state information about the application
25 which the application startup request detecting section has

determined that is unexecutable, is held by the application executed state obtaining section, and

the application executing section executes the substitute application based on the application executed state information so as to continue the application determined to be unexecutable.

[6] The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein the application execution determining section includes an inter-device startup arbitrating section which inquires the other electronic device connected to the network whether or not the substitute application is held, and communicates with another electronic device which holds the substitute application, to determine whether or not the substitute application is to be executed in the electronic device.

[7] A method for processing an electronic device connected via a network to at least another electronic device which can execute an application, comprising the steps of:

20 recognizing an application held by the other electronic device;

detecting whether or not the application recognized by the application recognizing section is unexecutable in the other electronic device;

25 determining whether or not a substitute application

which can substitute for an application determined to be unexecutable, is to be executed;

5 determining whether or not the substitute application which can substitute for the application determined to be unexecutable is held in the electronic device; and executing the substitute application.

[8] A program executed in an electronic device connected via a network to at least another electronic device which can execute 10 an application, comprising the steps of:

recognizing an application held by the other electronic device;

15 detecting whether or not the application recognized by the application recognizing section is unexecutable in the other electronic device;

determining whether or not a substitute application which can substitute for an application determined to be unexecutable, is to be executed;

20 determining whether or not the substitute application which can substitute for the application determined to be unexecutable is held in the electronic device; and executing the substitute application.